

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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1. After their return to Leipzig in March/April 1955, the German nuclear experts formed a commission designed to negotiate with the Soviets on the delivery of an atomic pile from Moscow. This commission consisted of four scientists (including Professor Robert Rompe as well as the returnees Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Schuetze, Dr. Werner Hartmann, and Burkhardt) and a representative of the SED Central Committee. Ulbricht personally took part in delineating the commission's activity in Moscow.

In late April 1955, the commission departed for Moscow under the slogan "Peaceful Use of Atomic Energy". Around 1 May 1955, the commission returned from Moscow.

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2. The following details were learned:
Prior to the German visit, commissions from Rumania and Bulgaria had been in Moscow. Since the Russians had prepared a complete list of the equipment to be delivered, the commission did not submit specified requests and no negotiations were conducted. The German group including Professor Rompe appeared concerned with the problem of what to do with the equipment and where to locate the necessary trained personnel. They withheld their opinion, however, when the SED functionary was present. It was the consensus that the whole affair was a mere political maneuver. Some members of the commission had an opportunity to see an atomic pile, of the type to be delivered to East Germany, in or near Moscow. The turn of the year 1955/1956 was indicated as the date of delivery. On occasion of the Moscow trip, Hartmann went to Leningrad where he was said to have inspected an atomic power plant under construction. He was said to have been greatly impressed by the simplicity and the high standard of the pile. No information on the precise location of the East German atomic pile was available. The whole project is to be supervised by the German Academy of Sciences. The following special missions were reported:

- a. Professor Gustav Hertz and Dr. Hans Joachim Born are to organize and train the required personnel.

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- b. In addition to his work in the field of the electronic microscope, Prof. Dr. Manfred v. Ardenne is to develop auxiliary reactor equipment.
 - c. Hartmann is to take charge of the special equipment developed by Ardenne which is to be installed in the vicinity of Dresden.
 - d. Rompe is to supervise a nuclear chemical plant which is to be set up in the vicinity of Berlin (presumably in Fuerstenberg). He will also engage in purification problems (radioactive isotopes?)
 - e. Weissl and Dr. Werner Herrmann are to work at Meier-Leibnitz' institute on the use of isotopes.
 - f. Dr. H. Barwich and Muehlenpfordt are to work on isotope separation by distillation methods. In Sukhumi, both these men worked in this field with boron.
3. Dr. Herbert Thieme's and Dr. Heinrich Ortmann's work is not associated with the East German atomic energy program. Thieme works as chief of the development department of the former Osram electric bulb factory and his work is concentrated on the development of fluorescent substances. Ortmann works chiefly in Buch in fluorescence research. Rompe ordered him to bring the Liebenstein fluorescent materials factory up to standard.

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Comments: Possibly Dr. Karl Friedrich Weiss-Joachim.

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